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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 001950

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/18/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [KWBG](#) [IS](#) [ICRC](#) [GOI](#) [INTERNAL](#)
SUBJECT: ISRAEL DEFMIN PERETZ SAYS HE WILL ASSIST, AS MUCH
AS HE CAN, ON MDA ISSUES

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Gene A. Cretz. Reasons: 1.4 (b, d).

1. (C) New Israeli Defense Minister Amir Peretz told Ambassador Jones May 17 that, per the Ambassador's request, he will use his influence as a cabinet member to support efforts to resolve outstanding issues and clear the way for Magen David Adom's (MDA) incorporation into the international Red Cross movement. He said he will look into MDA's charter to see whether there are ways to make it independent from the GOI, but cautioned that there is a security dimension to the issue, and noted that MDA draws on the GOI budget. Peretz said he will also look into the matter of Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) ambulance drivers being detained at checkpoints with an eye to preventing further hindrance of approved PRCS drivers: "If it falls within my power, I will do what I can."

2. (C) Other issues covered in the meeting, including Palestinian humanitarian issues, Iran, terrorism, and trafficking in persons, are reported in septels.

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JONES